Non-Plan grants provided by the Government to UGC have been steadily increasing over the years. UGC has appointed a Committee to evolve rational norms for providing development and maintenance grants to the Central Universities. Meanwhile, Chairman, UGC, has advised the Central Universities, Deemed Universities and Delhi Colleges, in March, 1993, to make efforts to reduce avoidable expenditure and augment internal income wherever possible.

According to the information furnished by UGC, paucity of funds may affect some developmental activities of the institutions, but the basic facilities are not likely to be affected. However, it will not lead to commercialisation of higher education.

DUAL POLICY FOR COTTON FARMERS

*332. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the current year's cotton crop is likely to be greater than that of 1992-93;

(b) to what extent the cotton growers' interest will be kept in mind when the issue of price is discussed;

(c) whether Government propose to formulate a policy or formula which will allow the cotton farmers to aim for only the international market;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to frame a dual policy for cotton farmers which would include cotton crop exclusively earmarked for exports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) No, Sir. The Cotton crop during 1993-94 is going to be marginally loss than that during 1992-93.

(b) The Government gives maximum weightage to the interest of cotton growers while fixing its minimum support price.

(c) There is no such proposal under the consideration of Government.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

RISE IN SUGAR PRICE

@ *333. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar price is continuing to rise and is unlikely to remain under control unless adequate imports are arranged if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) wheher it is also a fact that the sugar production in the country has considerably declined in the last four years; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to contain the rise in price of sugar and for increasing sugar production in the country to avoid imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) There has been marginal rise in the price of sugar in recent months. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of sugar which was 200.9 for August, 1993 remained stable in September 93 at 200.9 and marginally increased to 203.2 for October, 93. The WPI as on 27-11-1993 was 207.1. Steps are being taken to maintain sugar prices at reasonable levels. The requirement for import, if any, will depend upon the production for the current sugar season 1993-94, for which firm indications will be available by February/March, 1994.

@*Previously Starred Question No. 253, transferred from 20th December, 1993.